

Washington, D.C. 20505

EA 82-0218/A

20 APR 1982

Honorable Barry M. Goldwater, Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the Agency's position on Section 603, the so-called "Presidential cover" provision, in the "Intelligence Identities Protection Act." While the Agency is supportive of any efforts that would serve to improve the cover of its officers and employees, it is our position that retention of the hortatory language of the provision is unnecessary, and certainly not worth any delay in the completion of Conference action.

The President firmly supports and is fully committed to improving cover as an integral part of his efforts to strengthen our nation's intelligence apparatus. By virtue of his office, the President already has the authority to effect whatever changes he deems necessary. The discretionary language of Section 603 would not serve to enhance the President's powers in this regard. Moreover, I can assure you that substantial progress has been made in improving cover.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this provision and I am hopeful that the Conference Committee will expeditiously resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Identities legislation so that the enrolled Bill can be sent to the President in the near future.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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LLD:RJW:mm (19 April 1982)

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Request by Staff Director Simmons, SSCI, for DCI Ltr Re Section 603  
of Identities Bill

DATE 19 APR 1982

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**Executive Director**

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Attached for your signature is a letter to the Chairman of the SSCI reiterating our position with regard to Section 603, that provision of the "Intelligence Identities Protection Act" which encourages the President to make efforts to improve cover. Some HPSCI staff members currently negotiating the Conference Committee Report are attempting to make retention of Section 603 at "our behest" an issue to slow down Conference Committee progress. SSCI Staff Director Simmons has personally requested the attached letter which will serve to move the debate along. This letter has been coordinated with OGC. [REDACTED] IL EGR

Recommend you sign the letter and return to me so that we might personally and expeditiously deliver the same to Simmons.

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Attachment

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